



CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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CRIMEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REVIEW

MARCH 2021

The monitoring review was prepared by the Crimean Human Rights Group on the basis of materials collected in March 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

The **Crimean Human Rights Group (CHRG)** is an organization of the Crimean human rights defenders and journalists, the purpose of which is to promote the observance and protection of human rights in Crimea by attracting widespread attention to the problems of human rights and international humanitarian law observance in the territory of the Crimean peninsula, as well as the search and development of mechanisms to protect the human rights in Crimea.

The **CHRG** first of all obey the rules of basic documents in the field of human rights, such as: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights and others.

The main objectives of the **CHRG**:

- 1) Collection and analysis of the information regarding the human rights situation in Crimea;
- 2) Broad awareness among governments, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the media and other target groups through the publication and spreading of analytical and information materials on the human rights situation in Crimea;
- 3) Promote the protection of human rights and respect for international law in Crimea;
- 4) Preparation of recommendations for government authorities and international organizations in the sphere of human rights;
- 5) Providing the presence of “human rights in the Crimea topics” in the information space.

The **CHRG's** team consists of experts, human rights activists and journalists from different countries who are involved in monitoring and documenting human rights violations in Crimea, since February, 2014.

During preparation and spreading of the information the **CHRG** is guided by principles of objectivity, reliability and timeliness.

2

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

BAN ON TORTURE

According to the CHRГ, journalist **Vladyslav Yesypenko**, detained on March 10, 2021, was tortured by FSB men (*electric shocks and suffocation with a plastic bag*) in order to obtain the confessions required by the investigation. The testimony obtained by torture was also used in a staged interview for the KRYM24 pro-Russian channel.¹

RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS

On March 10, FSB officers detained **Mr.Vladyslav Yesypenko**, a KRYM.REALII journalist, and **Ms.Yelizaveta Pavlenko**, a Ukrainian activist, on the highway at the Angarsk Pass. After the arrest, Ms.Pavlenko was taken home, followed with an 8-hour's search and confiscation of the equipment and personal belongings. Mr.Yesypenko was taken away in an unknown direction, and only on March 12, his wife became aware that he was being held in the temporary detention unit in Simferopol and was suspected of "illegal manufacture of ammunition", RF CC² Art. 223.1-1 (*for more detail, see the subsection "Case of Vladyslav Yesypenko"*).

On March 11, a wide-scale search at supporters' of the Jehovah's Witnesses religious organization took place in Yalta. The Jehovah's

Witnesses in Russia website reported at least 9 searches. After the searches, **Mr.Taras Kuzio** was detained, with all his electronic equipment confiscated.³

On March 18, the police detained activist Ilya Bolshedvorov. The reason was that on January 22, 2021, using his phone, he was video recording a single-person picket. The police said that such actions shall be considered as participation in a mass event. The "court" ruled to arrest him for 10 days. (*for more detail, see section "Freedom of speech and expression"*).

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

As of end of March 2021, **114 persons** were deprived of liberty within a politically motivated criminal and/or religious persecution. The full list is published at the CHRГ website.⁴

"CASE OF CRIMEAN MUSLIMS"

This case defendants are accused of membership in Muslim religious organizations⁵ or propaganda of activities of the organizations that are declared terrorist or extremist in the RF though they are not according to the Ukrainian laws. Cases are considered in violation of the right to a fair trial, the main evidence for the court is the testimony of anonymous witnesses (many of whom are RF FSB men),

¹ KRYM 24 / Delivered SBU Information on Water and Elections: A Ukrainian Spy Caught in Crimea Gave Interview KRYM 24 <https://crimea24.tv/content/peredaval-informaciyu-o-sostoyanii-vo/>

² Hereinafter, Criminal Code of the Russian Federation

³ Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia / Wave of Searches in Houses of Faithful in Yalta. New Criminal Case Opened <https://jw-russia.org/news/2021/03/7.html>

⁴ https://crimeahrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/prisoners_03_2021.pdf

⁵ In most cases this organization is 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir'



pre-trial testimony of witnesses who later declare in court that such testimony was given under duress, and linguistic examinations of conversations of the accused Muslims. The evidence provided by the defense is usually not accepted by the judges.

In March the total number of Crimean residents deprived of liberty under the ‘Case of Crimean Muslims’ was **74 persons**, and **5 more people** are under the movement restriction: **3** are subject to supervision, and are not allowed to leave the occupied territory, and **2** are on house arrest.

On March 3, the Third Court of Appeal of City of Sochi considered the appeal against the decision to detain **Mr. Osman Arifmemetov** until January 14, 2021.⁶ The term of detention by the decision of the first instance had already expired, and a new decision had already been made against Arifmemetov to extend the term of detention until June 16. Thus, considering this appeal was just a formality and did not make it possible to exercise the right to appeal.

On March 12, the “Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea” (“SCRC”) upheld the decision to detain **Mr. Oleg Fedorov** and **Mr. Ernest Ibragimov** until April 15, 2021. Mr. Fedorov participated in the court session via video call from the Simferopol Pre-Trial Detention Center. Mr. Ibragimov did not attend the legal proceedings, because he was undergoing a forced psychiatric evaluation in the medical institution.⁷

On March 16, Anatoliy Osochenko,⁸ a judge of the “SCRC” upheld the decision on house arrest of **Mr. Alexander Sizikov** until June 2, 2021.⁹

On March 16, Oleg Volkov, a judge of the Southern Area Military Court (YuOVS) of

Rostov-na-Donu (RF) removed **Remzi Bekirov, Riza Izetov, Raim Ayvazov, Shaban Umerov and Farkhod Bazarov** from the courtroom for insisting on an interpreter from the Crimean Tatar language into Russian.¹⁰ On March 18, Valeriy Opanasenko, a YuOVS judge, for the same reason, removed **Servet Gaziyeu and Erfan Osmanov** from the courtroom.¹¹ On March 23, Vyacheslav Korsakov, a judge of the YuOVS, removed **Ruslan Suleymanov, Osman Arifmemetov, Rustem Sheykhaliyev and Yashar Muedinov** from the courtroom for using the Crimean Tatar language.¹²

On March 17, the “SCRC” upheld the decision to keep **Mr. Azamat Eyupov** in custody until April 15, 2021. Mr. Eyupov did not attend the legal proceedings, because he was undergoing a forced psychiatric evaluation in the medical institution.¹³

On March 17, the ‘Sevastopol City Court’ upheld the decision to detain **Mr. Yashar Shikhmetov** until April 15, 2021.

On March 19, the Military Court of Appeal in Vlasikha (RF) upheld the decision to detain **Mr. Ismet Ibragimov** until July 1, 2021.¹⁴ The case was considered by judge Anatoly Solin.¹⁵

“UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS’ CASE”

At the end of March 2021, **16 people** (including Mr. Vladyslav Yesypenko) who were accused by the RF FBS during the detention “of preparing subversions, possession of weapons and espionage”, were in custody. These cases feature recorded facts of unlawful investigation methods, torturing to get confessions, violation of presumption of innocence, dissemination of ‘confession’ videos by the RF FSB via the Russian mass media.

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1359313874436065>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1365529883814464>

⁸ «SCRC» / List of cases to be heard on 16 March 2021. Case no 22K-902/2021 https://vs--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=16.03.2021

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1368801410153978>

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1368682533499199>

¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1370998443267608>

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1373685416332244>

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1369394383428014>

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1370732336627552>

¹⁵ Military Court of Appeal. List of cases to be heard on 19 March 2021. Case no 55K-95/2021. https://vap.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=19.03.2021



On March 24, 2021, Boris Kozhevnikov, a judge of the 'Sevastopol City Court', convicted **Ms.Halyna Dovhopola**, a 66-year-old resident of Crimea and Ukrainian activist, under Art. 275 of the RF CC (*high treason*) to 12 years of imprisonment with serving of the punishment in the general regime penal colony.¹⁶ She was accused of "secretly collaborating with the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine as a tasked agent" and 'collecting data on a separate aviation regiment of the Black Sea Navy'. The criminal case was considered behind closed doors because 'there was State Secret information in the case files'. She was charged with High Treason instead of espionage because she had a Russian passport issued in Crimea by the RF bodies during the forced citizenship campaign after 2014. The woman did not apply for renunciation of Ukrainian citizenship, thus remaining a Ukrainian national.

It is important to note that according the RF CC espionage shall be punished with deprivation of liberty for 10 to 20 years, while the high treason — for 12 to 20 years.

On March 30, the CHRГ was informed that **Mr.Leonid Parkhomenko** had been conveyed from the Stavropol Colony to the maximum security regime penal colony no 8 'White Bear', town of Labytnagi (RF).

PERSECUTION FOR CHARGING WITH BEING IN N.CHELEBIDJIKHAN BATALION

As of the end of March, **six people** were deprived of liberty under a charge of being in N.Chelebidjikhhan battalion. The official reason for persecuting the accused in Crimea under RF CC Article 208-2 is that they failed to come voluntarily to the RF law enforcement bodies and declare their participation in the Crimean

Tatar Noman Chelebidjikhhan Volunteer Battalion. The evidence of the battalion actions against the RF interests declared by the investigation is the information of mass media that the purpose of the battalion establishment was to de-occupy Crimea.

On March 23, Igor Degtiarev, a judge of 'Kirovskoye District Court', sentenced **Medjit Abliamitov** to six years in the maximum security regime penal colony¹⁷.

PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

As of the end of March 2021, at least **5 persons** were deprived of liberty within the persecution of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' in Crimea. **4 more people** are under the movement restriction: **3** are on house arrest, and **1** is under travel restriction.

On March 10, Valeriy Nozdrin, a judge of the 4th General Jurisdiction Court of Cassation in city of Krasnodar (RF) upheld the verdict (6 years in prison) against **Mr.Sergey Filatov**, a supporter of Jehovah's Witnesses from Dzhankoy.¹⁸

On March 11, mass searches were carried out in the homes of Jehovah's Witnesses supporters in Yalta. After the searches, **Mr.Taras Kuzio**, a resident of Yalta, was detained under RF CC Article 282.3-1 (*Financing of an extremist organization*). For the entire day he was kept in the Temporary Pre-Trial Detention Center. On March 12, the "Kievsky District Court of Simferopol" passed a judgement of imposing a house arrest upon Taras Kuzio for a period until May 4, 2021.¹⁹

On March 22, during the debate in the "Gagarinsky City Court of Sevastopol," the prosecutor requested 7 years in prison for **Mr.Viktor Stashevsky**.²⁰ On March 29, "judge"

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeaarg/posts/2859579334327689>

¹⁷ CHRГ/ In Crimea Medjit Abliamitov Sentenced to Six Years in Maximum Security Regime Penal Colony for Serving in N.Chelebidjikhhan Battalion <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-krymu-medzhita-ablyamitova-za-a-uchastie-v-batalone-im-nomana-chelebidzhihana-prigovorili-k-6-godam-kolonii-strogo-rezhima/>

¹⁸ 4th General Jurisdiction Court of Cassation. List of cases to be heard on 10 March 2021. Case 7Y-708/2021 [77-906/2021] https://4kas.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srv_num=1&H_date=10.03.2021

¹⁹ Crimean Solidarity / Court Imposed House Arrest Upon a Jehovah's Witness from Yalta. His House Was Searched on 11 March <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/03/13/sud-otpravil-pod-domashnij-arest-svidetelya-iegovy-iz-yalty--marta-v-ego-dome-proveli-obysk--1039>

²⁰ CHRГ / «Prosecutor» When Debating Requested 7 Year's Sentence for Viktor Stashevsky, 'Jehovah's Witness' from Sevastopol <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/prokuror-vo-vremya-prenij-zaprosil-7-let-lisheniya-svobody-dlya-svidetelya-iegovy-iz-sevastopolya-viktora-stashevskogo>



Pavel Kryllo sentenced Viktor Stashevsky to 6 years and 6 months in prison for participating in the organization of Jehovah's Witnesses. Once the verdict had been announced, he was taken into custody.²¹

On March 24, when an appeal against the extension of detention for **Mr.Vladimir Sakada** and **Mr.Igor Shmidt** was being considered by the "Sevastopol City Court", the pre-trial restriction was changed to house arrest.²²

OLEH PRIKHODKO'S CASE

On March 3, Aleksey Magomadov, a YuOVS judge, sentenced **Mr.Oleh Prykhodko**, a Ukrainian activist, to 5 years in the maximum security penal colony with serving the first year in prison and a fine of RUR110,000. He was found guilty of preparing an act of terror (*RF CC Article 30-1, Article 205-1*), and storing explosives (*RF CC Article 222.1-1*).²³ The facts of falsifying evidence by the investigation, the charges brought, the explicit pro-Ukrainian position and repeated conflicts between Mr.Prykhod'ko and representatives of the occupation authorities because he did not recognize Crimea as part of the Russian Federation, give grounds to state that the case of Oleh Prykhod'ko is falsified, and the persecution is politically reasoned.

VLADYSLAV YESYPENKO'S CASE

On March 10, FSB men detained **Mr.Vladyslav Yesypenko**, a Krym.Realii journalist, and **Ms.Yelizaveta Pavlenko**, a Ukrainian activist, at the Angarsk Pass (village of Perevalnoye, Simferopol district). At the same time, Mr.Yesypenko was formally detained on March 11, according to the order of the investigator. Earlier, on March 9, they had

participated in an action in Simferopol dedicated to the birthday of the Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko. The house of Elizaveta Pavlenko was searched. On March 12, the Krym.Realii agency was informed that Vladyslav was being held in the temporary pre-trial detention facility in Simferopol.²⁴

The RF FSB accused the journalist under RF CC Article 223.1-1 (*Illicit manufacture of ammunition*), namely, in "retrieving components of an explosive device from the cache". After that, on March 16, the RF FSB press office disseminated information about the detention of Mr.Yesypenko, stating that the journalist "had been collecting information in Crimea for the Ukrainian security services" by filming the area and people in public places.²⁵ On March 18, KRYM 24, a Russian-controlled channel, published a staged interview with Vladyslav Yesypenko, in which he disclosed that he had been engaged in journalistic activities in Crimea on an editorial assignment for Radio Liberty and that the information he had collected was said to have been also submitted to the SBU.²⁶ According to the CHRG information, the journalist had to coerce under torture after the detention. Later the fact of torture was confirmed by Vladyslav when talking to the lawyers.

After the arrest and until the end of March, contracted lawyers were not allowed to see Vladyslav Yesypenko. He was appointed a lawyer — Ms. Violetta Sineglazova, who had previously been appointed lawyer on several occasions in other politically motivated cases. She was assigned beyond her duty schedule, that demonstrates her cooperation with the FSB. In this case similar to the previous ones, she did not file complaints on taking into custody and illegal methods of investigation, persuading her client to make a deal with the investigation and give false testimony.

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeaahrg/posts/2859529644332658>

²² CHRG / In Sevastopol Pre-Trial Restriction for Two Believers Changed from Custodial Detention to House Arrest <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/v-sevastopole-dvoim-veruyushhim-izmenili-meru-presecheniya-s-soderzhaniya-pod-strazhej-na-domashnij-arest>

²³ CHRG/ Crimean Ukrainian Activist Oleh Prykhod'ko Was Issued Verdict <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/krymskomu-proukrainskomu-aktivistu-olegu-prihodko-vynesli-prigovor>

²⁴ Krym.Realii / Two Missed Participants of Laying Flowers to Monument to Shevchenko in Simferopol Detained by FSB <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-fsb-zaderzhala-propavshyh-posle-vozlozhenia-cvetov/31147836.html>

²⁵ TASS / A Russian Who Collected Information for Secret Services of Ukraine Detained in Crimea <https://tass.ru/proisshestviya/10915617>

²⁶ KRYM24 / «Transferred SBU Information on Water and Elections»: Ukrainian Spy Caught in Crimea Interviewed by KRYM24 <https://crimea24.tv/content/peredaval-informaciyu-o-sostoyanii-vo/>



On March 12, ‘Kievsky District Court’ of Simferopol as requested by Vitaliy Vlasov, a RF FSB investigator, imposed a pre-trial restriction of detaining in custody by May 11, 2021.

On March 23, the ‘SCRC’ held a session to consider the complaint of the defense (filed by Taras Omelchenko, a contracted lawyer) of Vladyslav Yesypenko on detention in custody. Vladyslav Yesypenko was not taken to the session, under the pretext of being under investigation, and his appointed lawyer Ms.Sineglazova, did not come to the session.²⁷ The session result was that the lawyers who, under an agreement with relatives, represented the interests of Mr.Yesypenko (Taras Omelchenko and Aleksey Ladin), were allowed into the case, but they were not given the opportunity to see their client. Considering the complaint on taking into custody was postponed, as “judge” Timur Slizko decided to send the case to the FSB to notify the investigator about this complaint.

the punishment cell for 15 days more for her son, **Mr.Teymur Abdullayev**, a defendant in the “Case of Crimean Muslims”.³⁰ Teymur Abdullaev has been almost continuously kept in the punishment cell for more than a year.

CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS IN CUSTODIAL SETTING

Mr.Ayder Dzhapparov, the defendant in the “Case of the Crimean Muslims”, told lawyer Edem Semedliayev that there were cockroaches, rats and fleas in the cell of the pre-trial detention center No. 3 in Novocherkassk, there were no bed linen and pillows.²⁸

On March 24, employees of Penal Colony-14 of the Krasnodar Area (RF) extended the term of detention of **Andriy Kolomiyets**, a Ukrainian, in the punishment cell for the fact that he, being in the cell of the punishment cell, fell asleep standing.²⁹

On March 27, Ms.Diliara Abdullayeva reported that the administration of Penal Colony-2 in Salavat (RF) extended once again (the second time in March) the term of detention in

²⁷ CHRГ / Vladyslav Yesypenko Was Not Delivered to ‘Supreme Court’ of Crimea on Session for Appealing His Detention <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/vladislava-esipenko-ne-dostavili-v-verhovnyj-sud-kryma-na-zasedanie-po-obzhalovaniyu-ego-mery-presecheniya>

²⁸ Crimean Solidarity / Riza Omerov, Ayder Dzhapparov, Seyran Saliev and Server Zekiryayev Spoke to Lawyer in Pre-trial Detention Center <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/03/04/riza-omerov-ajder-dzhapparov-sejran-saliev-i-server-zekiryayev-proveli-besedu-s-advokatom-v-sizo-1008>

²⁹ CHRГ/ Punishment Cell Detention Period Extended for Political Prisoner Andriy Kolomiyets <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/politzaklyuchennomu-ukrainczu-andreyu-kolomijczu-prodlili-srok-nahozhdeniya-v-shizo/>

³⁰ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=911590446264046&id=100022392969328



FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

On March 2, Yekaterina Baliukova, ‘a judge of peace’, fined **Mr. Evgeniy Korniev**, a member of the religious organization “House of the Potter” in the city of Sevastopol, RUR5,000 rubles under RF CoAO³¹ Article 5.26-4, (*Illegal Missionary Activity*) for religious activity without documents issued by a religious organization.³²

On March 3, Yelena Dakhnevich, ‘a judge of peace’, fined the **Hava Nagila Synagogue of Messianic Jews in the city of Yevpatoriya** RUR30,000 rubles under RF CoAO Article 5.26-4, for the dissemination of video recordings of the divine service of the rabbi, which was not labelled with the religious organization symbol.³³ On March 10, Alime Ametova, ‘judge of peace’, fined the **Church of Evangelical Baptist Christians of City of Yevpatoria** at least RUR30,000 under RF CoAO Article 5.26-3 for the religious literature available in the church, without a religious organization labelling.³⁴

On March 22, Larisa Bugayeva, ‘a judge of peace’, fined **Mr. Artyom Morin**, bishop of the MAYAK Church of Evangelical Christians in the town of Yalta, RUR5,000 rubles, under RF CoAO Article 5.26-4.³⁵

In addition, in March the CHRG recorded a new administrative case in Crimea under RF CoAO Art. 5.26 regarding the “**LOVE OF CHRIST**” Church of Evangelical Pentecostal Christians.

On March 30, men representing the Crimean Muftiat, the FSB, the Center for Combating Extremism, and the Prosecutor’s Office came to the **Yukary Jami Mosque** in Alushta to make a search. The CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY Association reported that the

official reason for the search was “checking compliance with federal legislation on freedom of conscience and religious associations, on countering extremist activities and terrorism, land and other legislation.” The search resulted in confiscating 3 books: “Islamic Ethics of Business” by Gulnara Nurullina, “Family. Islam “and” He and She “by Shamil Alyautdinov.³⁶

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On March 10, RF FSB men detained journalist **Vladyslav Yesypenko**. His journalistic activities for the CRIMEA.REALII project (Radio Liberty) are qualified by the FSB as “intelligence and subversive activities in the interests of the Ukrainian security agencies.” It is his reports from Crimea within the framework of editorial assignments that are indicated as cooperation with the SBU,³⁷ though the journalist was filming in public places (*for more detail, see the subsection “Vladyslav Yesypenko’s Case”*).

In March, the elders of the Crimean Tatar people from various regions of Crimea published appeals in support of the defendants in the “Case of the Crimean Muslims” demanding to stop repressions against the Crimean Tatars and Muslims. On March 20, two unidentified persons tried to obtain evidence on the fact of these appeals from **Mr. Remzi Isliamov**.³⁸ On March 22, one more person, who had spoken out in defense of the Crimean Tatars and Muslims, **Mr. Akhmadzhon Kadyrov**, received a warning notice from the “prosecutor’s office” of the Nizhnegorskoye district on the inadmissibility of violating anti-extremist legislation. According to the information of the CRIMEAN SOLIDARITY Association, the warning notice states that such terms as “oppression”,

³¹ Hereinafter Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation

³² «Judges of Peace of Sevastopol» / Case 5-0061/7/2021 <http://mirsud.sev.gov.ru/>

³³ «Judges of Peace of Republic of Crimea» / Case 05-0059/43/2021 <http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/>

³⁴ «Judges of Peace of Republic of Crimea» / Case 05-0059/40/2021 <http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/>

³⁵ «Judges of Peace of Republic of Crimea» / Case 05-0085/7/2021 <http://mirsud82.rk.gov.ru/>

³⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1378235919210527>

³⁷ Secret Service of Ukraine

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=286075916233787>



“intimidation”, “lawlessness”, “injustice”, “an attempt to intimidate”, as well as calls to “help everyone who is under oppression” represent framing “a negative attitude towards staff of law enforcement and judicial authorities.”³⁹

On March 18, the Center for Countering Extremism (E Center) men detained activist **Mr. Ilya Bolshedvorov**. The reason was that on January 22, 2021, he filmed a single person protest on his phone.⁴⁰ After the arrest, he was held for several hours at the police station, with a report drawn up under RF CoAO Art. 20.2-8 (*Repeated violation of the rally holding rules*), and then taken to the “Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol”, where “judge” Yuri Gulevich arrested him for 10 days.⁴¹ It is noteworthy that the website of the “court” published information that Mr. Bolshedvorov had been arrested under RF CoAO Art. 20.1-2 (*Petty hooliganism associated with recusancy to a policeman*), that did not correspond to the article specified in the protocol.⁴²

The monitoring of FM broadcasting in northern Crimea, carried out by the CHRГ in March, showed that broadcasting of 5 radio stations was jammed in the area of CHAPLYNKA, and 6— in the area of CHONGAR.⁴³

Monitoring of access to Ukrainian Internet resources, carried out by the CHRГ in March among Crimean providers, showed that at least 12 providers in 12 Crimean settlements completely blocked the sites of 22 Ukrainian media and 5 sites of religious or government organizations.⁴⁴

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

On March 22, a “judge of the Dzhankoy District Court” issued a warning notice to **Ms. Sevili Omerova** for holding a single-person picket in support of her husband, a defendant in the “case of Crimean Muslims” Riza Omerov. The warning notice was issued under RF CoAO Art. 20.6.1 (*Failure to comply with the rules of conduct in an emergency or threat of its occurrence*).⁴⁵ On March 27, Georgiy Tsertvadze, a “judge of the Kirovskoye District Court”, fined activist **Mustafa Seydaliyev** on a similar charge RUR1,500 rubles for a single-person picket.⁴⁶

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

On March 20, Edict of the President of the Russian Federation No. 201 of March 20, 2020 that prohibited non-Russian nationals from owning land on almost 80% of the territory of the peninsula, came into force in Crimea.⁴⁷ Thus, citizens of Ukraine who refused or did not receive a Russian passport issued in Crimea in violation of international law as well as Ukrainian laws as part of the policy of imposed citizenship after the occupation, are deprived of their property legally acquired in Crimea in violation of the principles of international law.

³⁹ Crimean Solidarity /Prosecutor’s Office Issued First Warning Notice Due to Appeals of Crimean Elders Against Repressions <https://crimean-solidarity.org/news/2021/03/22/prokuratura-vynesla-pervoe-predosterezhenie-izza-vystuplenij-starejshin-kryma-protiv-repressij-1068>

⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/ilyabolshe/posts/920897805378742>

⁴¹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=921050732030116&id=134058427396021

⁴² «Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol» / Case 5-621/2021 https://centr-simph--krm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=sud_delo&srnum=1&H_date=18.03.2021

⁴³ CHRГ / Russia Still Jamming FM Broadcasting in Northern Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/rossiya-prodolzhaet-blokirovat-fm-radioveshhanie-v-severnomy-krymu>

⁴⁴ CHRГ / Minimum 12 Crimean Providers Blocking Ukrainian Websites in Crimea <https://crimeahrg.org/ru/minimum-12-krymskih-provajderov-blokiruyut-ukrainskie-sajty-v-krymu/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1373062733061179>

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/crimeansolidarity/posts/1376231249410994>

⁴⁷ Official Legal Information Website <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202003200021>

3 | VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

GENEVA CONVENTION (IV) RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR

CONSCRIPTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY INTO ARMED FORCES OF OCCUPYING POWER AND PROPAGANDA OF JOINING VOLUNTARILY THE ARMED FORCES

In March the CHRГ recorded **12** new criminal cases against the Crimean residents under RF CC Article 328 (*Evading the service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation*) and **7** new sentences issued under RF CC Article 328: ‘Leninsky District Court of Sevastopol’ — 2; ‘Bakhchisarai District Court’ — 1; ‘Nizhnegorskoye District Court’ — 1; ‘Tsentralny District Court of Simferopol’ — 1; ‘Kirovskoye District Court’ — 1; and ‘Dzhankoy District Court’ — 1.

Totally, as of the end of March 2021, the CHRГ documented **201** criminal cases initiated for evading the RF Army military service, that were sent to the Crimean ‘courts’ for considering, with verdicts delivered for **186** of them and **15** being still under consideration.

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